

To: Erica Gaddis[egaddis@utah.gov]
Cc: Kim Shelley[kshelley@utah.gov]; Bahrman, Sarah[Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov]; Walt Baker[wbaker@utah.gov]; llamb@utah.gov[llamb@utah.gov]
From: McComb, Martin
Sent: Sun 8/9/2015 6:53:18 PM
Subject: Re: Gold King Mine update

Sounds good.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2015, at 12:51 PM, Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov> wrote:

Martin,

I will forward emails from other EPA contacts regarding lab in Georgia. For now, we are going to use our own lab in SLC because we are not confident we will actually see the data fast enough. We still don't even have a pH reading for the San Juan river though our crew is with USGS in Shiprock now and reports 8.09. This is good!

Erica

On Sun, Aug 9, 2015 at 12:48 PM, McComb, Martin <McComb.Martin@epa.gov> wrote:

I tried the cell numbers. So, we have given up on using the local Durango lab at least for now. They seem overloaded and are not working today. For the short term, we are spinning up our regional lab. We are also sending a mobile lab to the area and we will certainly be tracking down some commercial lab support. We are accepting nothing more than 24hr turns for dissolved metals, total metals and mercury once they get to the lab. Most of our stuff will be run by 200.7 and 200.8. If you need waters done by drinking water standards, we can arrange that but I am not so certain of the turnaround.

We would be more than happy to run your along with ours. You can either ship them or get them to Durango.

Let us know how we can help.

M

From: Kim Shelley [mailto:kshelley@utah.gov]
Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 12:12 PM
To: Bahrman, Sarah
Cc: McComb, Martin; Erica Gaddis; Walt Baker; llamb@utah.gov

Subject: Re: Gold King Mine update

Hi Sarah and Marty,

Leah Ann's cell: [801-560-0464](tel:801-560-0464)

Kim's cell: Personal Phone/Ex. 6

I believe that Erica is available right now. If not, please call Leah Ann and I.

Thanks,

Kim

On Sun, Aug 9, 2015 at 12:03 PM, Bahrman, Sarah <Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Marty –

Try Erica's cell at: ☎ [801.205.3769](tel:801.205.3769)

I don't have a number for Kim or Leah Ann.

Sarah E. Bahrman | Acting Director, Water Program | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8

(p) 303.312.6243 | (c) 303.903.8515 | (f) 877.876.9101

From: McComb, Martin
Sent: Sunday, August 09, 2015 12:01 PM
To: Erica Gaddis
Cc: Bahrman, Sarah; Walt Baker; Kim Shelley; llamb@utah.gov
Subject: Re: Gold King Mine update

I hear you are looking for analytical help. What number can I call someone at?

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2015, at 11:33 AM, Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov> wrote:

Thank you. I'm adding Kim Shelley and Leah Ann Lamb onto this email string. They will take over coordination later today and into the week as Walt and I are travelling.

Erica

On Sun, Aug 9, 2015 at 11:17 AM, McComb, Martin
<McComb.Martin@epa.gov> wrote:

Your crew is in Bluff right? My brother lives there. Beautiful.

I've told our airplane to make a flyover of the area again this afternoon (they went this am).

I'll work on getting you the imagery but I will certainly email an update.

M

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2015, at 10:46 AM, Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov> wrote:

Our crew estimates the velocity of the river to be 2.3 to 2.7 mph at Four Corners. If that estimate is correct the earliest the bloom will arrive is 3:00pm this afternoon. Assuming the plume is slower than the river, it is more likely to be this evening. They are going to begin collecting samples at noon and will collect at 3 hour intervals unless we see a visual plume. Any help in estimating the travel time would be much appreciated.

On Sun, Aug 9, 2015 at 10:07 AM, McComb, Martin <McComb.Martin@epa.gov> wrote:

If this helps: our airplane was up this morning and could not identify a discernible leading edge.

M

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2015, at 9:57 AM, Erica Gaddis <egaddis@utah.gov> wrote:

Sarah,

Walt just went into airplane mode and won't be available for 3 hours. We have a crew at the state line and I need to decide if they should stay to wait for the plume. Could you answer the following?

* Do we have a velocity estimate of the plume in the San Juan River? The 4mph on the last EPA report appears to be for the Animas but it is unclear.

* Is it correct that the plume reached Farmington at 9am and Kirtland at 4pm? If so, then the travel time would be

approximately 1.4 mph. The Utah stateline is 55 stream miles from Kirtland. Assuming 1.42 mph, the plume will enter Utah at 1:00am tomorrow (Monday) morning. If we assume 4 mph then the plume should have entered Utah at 6:00am this morning. The river is very turbid due to rains and our crew does not think they will be able to visually see the plume when it arrives. They describe the river now as red, turbid, and consistency of a smoothie.

* Is it possible to get a velocity measurement from the USGS gage at Four Corners? The gage reports discharge and I can not find the rating curve or cross-section to back out velocity.

* Does EPA have any new imagery to help us tell where the plume is now?

* Could you put me in touch with whoever is estimating travel time for NM DEQ?

Thank you,

Erica

On Sun, Aug 9, 2015 at 9:44 AM, Bahrman, Sarah
<Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Walt- that is an estimate from New Mexico DEQ. I will work to get you our latest estimate asap.

Thanks

On Aug 9, 2015, at 9:23 AM, Walt Baker
<wbaker@utah.gov> wrote:

Sarah,

According to our mapping it is only about 75 stream miles from Farmington to the Utah

border. At a velocity of 3 mph we would expect the plume to hit Utah late morning today. What is the 5:00 a.m. Monday estimate based on and who made it.

Walt
Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 9, 2015, at 8:53 AM, Bahrman, Sarah
<Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Walt-

I understand that you're frustrated. We are working to determine ways to get information out faster, but we also want to make sure the information we are releasing is accurate and interpreted, and that takes some time.

The next set of data should be out later this morning. I had told you more data would be out yesterday and I'm sorry that did not happen. I will share info with you as soon as I get it.

As for the plume, the last location I heard was it was past Kirtland, NM. The latest travel time estimate I heard was the leading edge was expected to reach the UT border at about 5am Monday.

I want to reiterate that we have heard from you and many others that info is coming out too slowly, and we will do our best to change that with more regular communication.

Thanks

Sarah

On Aug 9, 2015, at 6:29 AM, Walter Baker <wbaker@utah.gov> wrote:

Sarah,

I am increasingly frustrated. No new qualitative data has been posted by EPA in over 30 hours. Even the most basic of pH data. There has been no update in pictures since last Thursday even though EPA flies the rivers twice daily. I have no idea where the plume is or when it will reach certain locations. I was told yesterday I would be given non-public rights to info at the incident webpage. Communication with my state has been poor. Am I missing communication that has happened or data that's out there somewhere?

What will EPA do to change this condition?

Walt

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 8, 2015, at 8:53 PM,
Bahrman, Sarah
<Bahrman.Sarah@epa.gov> wrote:

Wanted to make sure you all
received this. Thanks

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Cristiano, Gina"
<Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov>
Date: August 8, 2015 at
8:49:01 PM MDT
To:
"SweetieMarbury@DurangoGov.org"
<SweetieMarbury@DurangoGov.org>,
"chris@frontier.net"
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<bgardner@silverton.co.us>,
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<gwen.lachelt@co.laplata.co.us>,
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Good Evening Everyone,

Please see the attached
EPA statement for August
8th.

Also, some of you may
have already heard through
other channels but, there is
pH, dissolved metals and
other information on the

website –
www.epaosc.org/goldkingmine.

Thank you,

Gina Cristiano

Emergency Response &
Planning Coordinator

EPA Region 8

[303-312-6688](tel:303-312-6688)

<GoldKingMineUpdate
080815.pdf>

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